

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

2nd Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 9

If You Confess with Your Mouth

If You Confess with Your Mouth

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month’s books, you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the students that our response to Christ’s offer of salvation is to repent, confess Jesus as Lord, and believe in what He has done.

Key Verses

Romans 10:9; Matthew 4:17; Luke 19:1-10—Main Teaching Passages

Books to Memorize

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans

Hook

Hold the prize jar up in front of the class. Ask the class how to get a prize from the prize jar (they must recite the books of the Bible they have learned so far). Ask, “Is this prize available to everyone?” (Yes, anyone who learns their verse can get a prize.) Then ask, “But does that mean I automatically get one?” (No, you have to recite the books of the Bible or you don’t get one.)

Something much better than a piece of candy is also available to everyone: salvation. The last few weeks, we saw that because of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, we can be saved. But we need to respond to this offer of salvation.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

The Bible gives a few verses that tell us what we need to do in response to Jesus' saving work. In Romans 10:9, Paul writes that we are saved by confessing with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in our heart that God raised Him from the dead. Jesus preached that people should "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). This two aspects of confession and belief in Christ and repentance of sins can be seen in the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.

Zacchaeus was well-known for being a sinner (vs. 7), and he even confessed to taking money from people through lying (vs. 8). He was a chief tax collector, and tax collectors were known to be greedy thieves who would do anything to take people's money. They were hated by all and had a bad reputation. Yet when Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town, he climbed a tree to see Him, and Jesus told him that He wanted to eat at his house, a request Zacchaeus eagerly accepted.

At his house, Zacchaeus declared that he would give half of all his money to the poor, and to anyone he had cheated out of money, he would repay them four times as much. He also declared Jesus to be the Lord. When Jesus heard this, He declared that salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house, and that His mission was to seek and save that which was lost. Zacchaeus had both confessed Jesus as Lord and repented of his sins by returning the money he had taken.

LOOK

Over the last month, we have learned about Jesus' birth, sinless life, death, and resurrection. We have seen how Christ's work saves us from our sins and gives us new life, and how He has defeated sin and death for us. But now you might be wondering how we can receive this wonderful gift of eternal life. Matthew 4:17 and Romans 10:9 tell us that we receive this gift by repenting of our sins, confessing Jesus as Lord, and believing in His saving work. In our story today, we see part of this response in the life of Zacchaeus.

Repenting of sin and confessing Jesus as Lord means rejecting our old lord and master, sin, and instead making Jesus our new Lord (King). That means not only that we stop doing the sinful things we used to do, but that we turn away from those things and instead seek to do what pleases Jesus. In our story today, Zacchaeus did this when he turned to Jesus in faith. He didn't just call Jesus, "Lord," but he showed that he truly believed it by repenting. Zacchaeus not only said he was sorry for his sin and asked Jesus for forgiveness, but he actually paid back to those he stole

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

from and gave half of his money to the poor. He repented in both word and action. He rejected his old lords of sin, greed, and theft, and instead made Jesus the Lord of his life. When Jesus heard his confession of Him as Lord and saw his repentance, He declared that Zacchaeus truly had been saved.

The second part of Romans 10:9 says that we must also believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. Of course, Zacchaeus could not yet believe in the resurrection because at that point Jesus had not yet died and risen again, but we have heard the good news that Jesus is God born as a man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to pay for our sins, and rose again, defeating death. By believing, we trust that Jesus by His saving work is able to forgive our sins and we ask God to forgive us because of what Christ has done for us.

If you have never confessed Jesus as Lord and repented of your sins, you have the opportunity to do that today. All you need to do is repent and turn from your old master, sin, confess Jesus as Lord, and believe in Christ's saving life, death, and resurrection to deliver you from your sin. Then you too will be a saved child of God.

TOOK

Give students an opportunity to confess Jesus' Lordship and believe in His life, death, and resurrection.

As a class, review the books of the Bible Matthew-Romans.

Review the lesson by asking the class how we can be saved. Review the events in the story of Zacchaeus and ask how Zacchaeus showed true repentance.

Pray: Praise the Lord for making a way for us to be saved. Ask Him to help us to turn away from our sins and turn to Him.

Parent Question: How did Zacchaeus show repentance?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 19:1-10 by David Guzik

A. Jesus and Zacchaeus

1. ([Luk 19:1-4](#)) Zacchaeus climbs a tree and risks ridicule to see Jesus.

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

a. **Jesus entered and passed through Jericho:** Jericho was an ancient and important city, and as Jesus passed through the city on His way to Jerusalem, it seems that the reason was to meet with this **man named Zacchaeus**.

i. Jericho was a prosperous city. "It had a great palm forest and world-famous balsam groves which perfumed the air for miles around. Its gardens of roses were known far and wide. Men called it 'The City of Palms.' Josephus called it 'a divine region,' 'the fattest in Palestine.' The Romans carried its dates and balsam to world-wide trade and fame." (Barclay)

b. **Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector:** Zacchaeus was not only a tax collector, but a **chief tax collector** – and the Jews hated men like him. This was not only due to their natural dislike of taxes, but more so because of the practice known as tax farming, the collector made his profit on whatever *extra* he could get away with charging his victims. A tax collector was highly motivated to make the taxes as high as possible.

i. When the tax collectors came to John the Baptist, asking how they could get right with God, he told them *collect no more than what is appointed for you* ([Luke 3:13](#)). If you were a tax collector and you were rich, you were a rogue.

ii. Morris on **chief tax collector**: "The title is not found anywhere else, so its precise significance is not known, but it seems to point to the head of the local taxation department."

iii. The name **Zacchaeus** means "pure one." This man was anything but pure – until he received Jesus. "He should by his name have been a puritan (in the best sense), but he was an arch-publican, a public sinner, not simple, but subtle, a griping extortioner, a rich but wretched sycophant." (Trapp)

c. **He sought to see who Jesus was:** Zacchaeus wanted to set his eyes on Jesus; he *sought after Him*. Perhaps Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus accepted people like him; he longed to see this remarkable Man Jesus for himself.

d. **He was of short stature:** His natural state gave him a disadvantage in seeking after Jesus. It also probably affected his personality; small in size, we can imagine how Zacchaeus was mocked and hated by others – and how he returned the favor by increasing the taxes on his victims.

i. If Zacchaeus had a small heart, he would have given up and not worked to see Jesus. "But Zacchaeus had had a great will to grown rich, and he had found there a way to *that*. And now he had a great will to see Jesus, and he was not the sort of person to be stopped." (Morrison)

e. **He ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him:** Because Zacchaeus sought Jesus so intensely, he didn't mind doing something that many thought was beneath the dignity of a grown, wealthy man – he climbed up **a sycamore tree**.

i. He climbed the tree like a little boy, and without knowing fulfilled Jesus' word that unless we become like children we will not see the kingdom of God ([Matthew 18:3](#)).

ii. "A traveller describes the tree as being like 'the English oak, and its shade is most pleasing... It is very easy to climb.'" (Barclay)

iii. "I wish there were more of us who did not mind being laughed at if only what we did helped us to see Jesus." (Maclaren)

2. ([Luk 19:5-6](#)) Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

a. **He looked up and saw him:** Because Zacchaeus worked hard and risked embarrassment to see Jesus, *Jesus saw him* and did not pass him by. In the best sense, Zacchaeus stood out to Jesus, and Jesus connected with Him.

b. **Zacchaeus, make haste:** Jesus started by calling **Zacchaeus** by name. Jesus knew the importance of a person's name. This may have been the first time Zacchaeus heard someone besides his mother say his name in a kind way.

i. Saying his name made all the difference; Jesus told **Zacchaeus**, "I know you, and I lay some claim upon you."

ii. Jesus knew the importance of a name. He said that He calls His sheep by name: *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out* ([John 10:3](#)). In Revelation, we are promised a new name that only God and we know. When we get to heaven, there will be someone there who knows our name.

c. **Make haste and come down:** Jesus told Zacchaeus to *hurry* and to **come down**. If He did not hurry the opportunity might be lost; if he did not lower himself he would never meet Jesus.

i. This says to each, "Come down from your high place; Jesus would never have eaten with Zacchaeus if he stayed in the sycamore tree."

d. **Today I must stay at your house:** Jesus didn't merely want to preach to Zacchaeus and convert him in a spiritual or religious sense. Jesus wanted to have *real relationship* with Zacchaeus, beginning with a meal and time spent together.

i. Jesus invited Himself to spend time with Zacchaeus, the hated outcast. The early church was despised for its acceptance of outcasts ([1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#)), but the early Christians regarded this as something glorious, not shameful.

e. **And received Him:** Jesus would only come into the house of Zacchaeus and into his life *if invited, if received*. He received Jesus first, and then started a relationship with Him.

i. "Christ will not force himself into any man's house, and sit there against the man's will. That would not be the action of a guest, but of an unwelcome intruder." (Spurgeon)

ii. Perhaps Zacchaeus had a lot of questions; but he didn't ask them from the sycamore tree. He came down from the tree, met Jesus, and then asked Him whatever he wanted to.

f. **And received Him joyfully:** Zacchaeus was *happy* to receive Jesus. Jesus called Zacchaeus to Himself, and it was to *Jesus* that he came, and happily so. Zacchaeus received **Him** – that is, Jesus Himself. Not primarily to a creed or a doctrine, not to a theory, and not to a ceremony – but to Jesus.

i. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, and would be received into the city with joy, with what is called *the triumphal entry*. Here, before that, He had a different entry into the heart of just *one man*. This entrance, this reception seemed to have more lasting results.

ii. Jesus is joyful to receive sinners, and they are joyful to be saved. We know that the joy of Jesus is greater, because it is more blessed to give than to receive.

iii. Zacchaeus is a model to everyone of how to receive Jesus:

- Receive Jesus by seeking after Him with real effort.
- Receive Jesus by humbling yourself.
- Receive Jesus no matter how sinful or hated you are.
- Receive Jesus as He invites you by name.
- Receive Jesus without delay.
- Receive Jesus by coming down to Him.
- Receive Jesus Himself.
- Receive Jesus into your *life*, your *home*.
- Receive Jesus joyfully.
- Receive Jesus despite what other say.
- Receive Jesus with repentance and restitution.

3. ([Luk 19:7-10](#)) Zacchaeus renounces his sin and Jesus proclaims his salvation.

But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

a. **He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner:** The people (**they all**, not only the religious leaders) thought Jesus had gone too far by associating with a man as bad as Zacchaeus – so they protested.

i. “Jesus Christ did not teach Zacchaeus by going to his house that character was of no consequence; on the contrary, Zacchaeus perceived at once that character was of the greatest consequence, and so he stood forth, and said ‘Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.’” (Spurgeon)

b. **Look, Lord...I restore fourfold:** In receiving Jesus and spending just a little time with Him, Zacchaeus knew he had to repent and make restitution. First he just sought after Jesus; but in seeking Jesus he also came to seek repentance.

i. Zacchaeus cheerfully offered to do as much or even more than the law demanded. The promise to make restitution to **anyone** he had wronged was remarkable; “Considering the way he had made his money it was unlikely that this would be a short list.” (Morris)

ii. *Can a life change this quickly?* Yes. Not every habit in the life of Zacchaeus changed immediately, but the heart changed and there was some evidence of life-change immediately.

c. **Today salvation has come to this house:** Jesus knew that the repentant Zacchaeus was saved, rescued from the bondage, power, guilt, and penalty of his sin. The word was no longer **sinner** but **salvation**, and Jesus told everyone.

i. Jesus commanded the rich young ruler to give away everything ([Luke 18:18-23](#)); but for Zacchaeus it was enough to make restitution to those he had wronged. Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name and knew exactly what *he* must do to repent and be right with God and man.

ii. In [Luke 18:24-27](#), Jesus said that it was impossible with man for the rich to enter into heaven; but it is possible with God. This is a fulfillment of that promise. Zacchaeus became a joyful giver, thus showing God's *impossible* work in him, but the young ruler went away sorry, holding on to his riches.

d. **Because he also is a son of Abraham:** Since Zacchaeus was so hated by his fellow Jews, they probably often said that he wasn't a "real" Jew. Jesus wanted everyone to know that Zacchaeus really was a **son of Abraham**, both by genetics and by faith – because he really, joyfully received Jesus.

i. The priests of Jericho (it was a Levitical city) had probably often condemned Zacchaeus and called on him to give to the poor. But after meeting Jesus, such a sacrifice was done joyfully. Love for Jesus can motivate us for greater things than legalism, guilt, or manipulation can ever do.

e. **The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost:** Jesus explained why He sought and extended friendship to a notorious sinner like Zacchaeus. Jesus came precisely to save people like Zacchaeus.

i. Zacchaeus *really* believed on Jesus. A true **son of Abraham** was not only descended from Abraham genetically, but also had the *faith* in God Abraham had.

ii. Even though Zacchaeus sought Jesus, it turns out that *he* was the one who **was lost**, and *Jesus sought him (has come to seek)*. Zacchaeus was lost to his parents; lost to the religious, lost to his community, lost to whatever friends he might have had – yet in a sense, not lost to God. "As the story of his conversion unfolds, his seeking Jesus ([Luke 19:3](#)) turned out to be the result of Jesus' first seeking him ([Luke 19:10](#))." (Pate)

iii. The entire account with Zacchaeus gives us a remarkable who, what, where, when, why, and how of receiving Jesus.

- *Who* Jesus wants to receive Him: those lost.
- *What* Jesus wants with those who receive Him: relationship.
- *Where* Jesus wants to go: down to Him.
- *When* Jesus wants you to receive Him: immediately, quickly.
- *Why* Jesus wants you to receive Him: to be with Him, to connect with Him in life.
- *How* Jesus wants you to receive Him: joyfully.